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REUTER

19 May 1982

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R 15942)1ZYRCZCUIV
ZFAM-AGENCY (2 TAKES)Z
OTTAWA, MAY 19, REUTER --- A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTER TODAY REJECTED CHARGES THAT THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) INFILTRATED CANADA'S SECURITY SERVICE AND INFLUENCED CANADIAN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN THE 1970'S.
A LAWYER INVESTIGATED THE CHARGES AFTER JOHN MEIER, A FORMER AIDE OF FINANCIER HOWARD HUGHES, MADE THEM IN 1976, SOLICITOR-GENERAL ROBERT KAPLAN TOLD REPORTERS.
THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP) SECURITY SERVICE PROBED THEM LATER, AND BOTH SAID THEY WERE UNFOUNDED, HE SAID.
THE ISSUE WAS DISCLOSED BY SOCIALIST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SVEND ROBINSON, WHO PRODUCED A PETITION BY MEIER WHICH SAID CIA AGENTS CHANNELLED FUNDS TO UNNAMED PARTIES OR CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS IN FIVE CANADIAN PROVINCES BETWEEN 1970 AND 1976.
ROBINSON SAID HE BELIEVED THE CHARGES WERE SERIOUS AND, IF SUBSTANTIATED, WOULD REPRESENT ''A MASSIVE VIOLATION OF CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY'' BY THE CIA.
REJECTING THE CHARGES LATER, KAPLAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OBJECT STRONGLY TO CLANDESTINE CIA OPERATIONS IN CANADA, ''AND BECAUSE OF THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CIA DOES NOT HAVE OPERATIVES IN THIS COUNTRY.''Z
MORE 2105 JR

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''NOTHING THAT WE'VE EVER UNCOVERED SUGGESTS THAT THE CIA IS VIOLATING THAT UNDERSTANDING IN ANY WAY,'' HE SAID.
RCMP SECURITY OFFICERS FELT THAT THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN MEIER'S PETITION WERE UNFOUNDED, KAPLAN SAID. THE CHARGES WERE EITHER INVESTIGATED OR REJECTED OUT OF HAND ON THE BASIS OF RCMP KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE.
MEIER SAID IN THE PETITION HE SEVERED CONNECTIONS WITH HOWARD HUGHES IN 1969. HE CAME TO CANADA IN 1972 AND WAS GRANTED CITIZENSHIP FIVE YEARS LATER.
IN THE DOCUMENT, MEIER, WHO LIVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, SAID HE WANTED TO DISCLOSE TO THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT CONFIDENTIAL DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED CIA OPERATIONS IN CANADA.
REUTER 2106 JR

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